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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1910.

HEADING FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

Count New Jersey in the Democratic column; Woodrow Wilson was nominated for Governor yesterday by the Democratic Convention at Trenton—nominated unanimously on the first ballot. That means that he will be elected. A strong man, of high character, indomitable purpose, clean living and straight thinking, loyal to the best traditions of the Democratic party, and knowing the history of the country, he will make a Governor worthy of New Jersey. His election as Governor will make him worth thinking about for President.

SHOOTING AT CHARLESTON.

We knew that it would come soon or late, but we hoped that it would be postponed until the first sere of the defeat had been mollified with criticism. Yet here comes the Greenville Piedmont declaring its belief in the doctrine of States' rights and suggesting that "South Carolina should have the right to segregate Charleston for the vote given Bleasie." It would be a lucky thing for Charleston, indeed, if such a thing could happen. We have known that old town for a good many years. We know that its people are among the best people in the world; that they have never failed to do their whole duty in any emergency; that they have given most liberally of their substance to every good cause that has been presented to them; that they are a clean, high-spirited, long-suffering, loyal sort. They are as much entitled to their opinion on any question of politics or religion or social conduct as the people of any other community in the State.

The fact that they do not agree with some of their neighbors is all the more to their credit, if they believe sincerely, as we have no doubt they do, in their own view of public questions and patriotic purpose and social living and religious faith. Yet they have been the butt of the jesting of every cheap politician in the State and the target at which all the shafts of infamy have been aimed—a small community of respectable people attending to their own business in their own way, yet upon their devoted heads has been visited the insensate hatred of a majority. Nothing better could happen for them really than a wholly independent administration of their own political affairs. That would be pure democracy.

In all time of trial and tribulation they have remained true to themselves. We know them through and through—their history, their traditions, their peculiarities, and we know that they have been more misrepresented, more misjudged and more maligned than the people of any other community, or of all other communities in the State. The time has come, it seems to us, when this sort of misjudgment and misrepresentation should cease. It is no longer of the least direct consequence to us, and, therefore, we can speak plainly, against the outrageous interference with the manners and customs and proper independence of those who live in Charleston.

THE PRINCIPLE, NOT THE PERSON.

One of the correspondents of the Appomattox Times-Virginian writes to the last number of that paper concerning the amendments affecting the county and city treasurers and commissioners of revenue. Among other things, he says: "Our treasurer and commissioner are both popular, honest and capable, and I don't know that we could improve on them."

There is just where this correspondent has fallen into an error which is common to many of our correspondents and contemporaries. The fight on the amendments is a fight for principle, not an attack on men. We have no doubt that some of the treasurers and commissioners of revenue in this Commonwealth are as efficient and able and honest as men can be, but we still insist that the principle of allowing them indefinite continuation in office is unsound, unjust and undemocratic. If this were a perfect government of perfect men, we should not fight the proposed amendments giving indefinite tenure to these officers, but we have not yet reached the period when it can be claimed that no officeholders refuse to pervert their offices for their private concern rather than for the public good. There are good office-holders—and there are some that are not so good.

There are some treasurers who administer their offices strictly in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law; there are some who do not carry over delinquent taxpayers from year to year in order to make henchmen out of them or for fear of incurring their displeasure; there are some who have made no effort to build up personal machines—but there are none too many such. There are commissioners who do not make low and improper assessments in order to gain the favor

and the friendship of property owners; but we do not think they are over numerous.

These offices hold out strong temptation for improper management. They afford an opportunity to sacrifice public right to private interest; they are full of chances for the politician who wishes to use his office wrongfully in order to accumulate power and influence for him.

It is a question of improving both the man and the office. The present law was framed with the view of so safeguarding these offices that they might be better adapted to honest and thorough public service. It is not a matter of this man or that, it is a matter of principle.

UP, GUARDS, AND AT HIM!

Bully for the Old Guard in New York! It is making a good fight for the control of the convention in Saratoga, and it looks now as if it will win. The number of delegates in the convention will be 1015—a majority will be 508. Up to date 640 delegates have been elected, of whom 332 are for Sherman and 301 for Roosevelt and 7 doubtful. Of the delegates yet to be elected, it is estimated that 200 will be for Sherman and 137 for Roosevelt, with 48 doubtful. This will give Sherman 522 votes in the convention and Roosevelt 453, and, if this estimate be true, either the untamed lion-hunter will be compelled to eat out of the hands of the Old Guard or retire to the jungle.

It is reported by the people on the inside that there has been no wild scramble, as had been expected, to get into the Roosevelt band wagon, and the Colonel himself appears to be somewhat impressed that way if his statement be true that he will not on any account consent to be either the temporary chairman of the convention at Saratoga or its candidate for Governor of New York. One of the reasons assigned by him for this determination is that he could not consent to "confine his labors entirely to New York State. But if the Old Guard shall succeed in controlling the Saratoga meeting that will come very near putting the Colonel out of business—a consummation most devoutly to be wished, although we should welcome his defeat as Governor of New York, an event which would almost surely follow his nomination. Indeed, if the Democrats shall keep their heads level and put up their best man no Republican candidate can be elected Governor of New York in November.

The Democratic skies are brightening all around, except possibly in Tennessee, and Patterson is to be blamed for the disgraceful condition of affairs down there. As we have always claimed, the interests of the South and the East, commercial, industrial and political, are largely the same, and in the race for the control of this country we must look to the rising and not to the setting sun. Whatever the Colonel shall do about the Saratoga convention, whether he shall consent to stand for chairman of that body and accept the nomination for Governor or not, he is sure to receive the blame for the present disorganized condition of his party in New York and throughout the country. The echoes of Osawatimie and Sioux Falls, and St. Paul are dying away. Men everywhere are getting tired of the circus attractions in political business. One of the stories that comes from New York is that the Old Guard intends to "smoke the Colonel out" and make him declare himself either for or against Mr. Taft. This is one time we do not think he will be able to dodge, and, whether he dodge or not, the country has taken his measure.

THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH.

Thought they had him. Couldn't find him anywhere. Knew he would never come back. Always believed that he was a crook. Denounced him as the champion fakir of all the ages. Insisted that he was all sorts of a liar. Laughed, because he couldn't do a sum in nautical terms. Mocked him, because they said his observations were a little off in spots. Derided him, because he hid himself and wouldn't answer them back. Tormented him for their insolence. Fomented expeditions to follow his course in other great achievements. Calculated that they had him down and out for keeps. But what vision is this that our trusting eyes behold? A strong, self-reliant, fearless and indomitable man emerging once more from the frozen North worn and haggard, but with his loyal face shining with the light of Victory—Victory over false accusers, victory against all the forces of greed and selfishness; loaded with the trophies of his immortal triumph—Dr. Frederick Albert Cook, the Original Discoverer of the North Pole! Well may his detractors return to the dust from which they sprang, unwept, unhonored and unsung.

Yesterday the staunch Hans Egede, a steamship belonging to the Danish Government, arrived at Copenhagen with the news that John R. Bradley, the financial backer of Dr. Cook's North Pole Expedition, was on his way to Etah to secure the records and instruments Dr. Cook left there on his return from the Pole. Mr. Bradley is reported to have declined either to affirm or deny that Dr. Cook was with him; but the Captain of the Hans Egede brought information that "two missionaries, who are working among the Eskimos, insist that the Doctor reached the North Pole, as he claims, prior to the discovery by Peary."

"Bide a wee," men and brethren; wait till Mr. Bradley and Dr. Cook get back home, and then rejoice with us that Truth has been vindicated. We have had a long hard fight, a night almost alone against the world, the flesh and the devil, for the square deal for Dr. Cook, and, with the help of the records and the instruments and

the testimony of the missionaries and the Eskimos, he will yet be adjudged the most wonderful man of his age. Of any age; for, in addition to capturing the Pole, he has in the midst of the most fearful storm of obloquy commanded his own integrity.

CONGRATULATIONS.

The Greenville Piedmont reports that on leaving the South Carolina State Capitol for his home in Laurens county, the day after the election, Mr. Featherstone, the unsuccessful candidate for Governor in the South Carolina Democratic Primary, "wrote a note to his successful competitor, Mr. Bleasie, congratulating him upon the result of the election." Why did he do it? If all that he said during the campaign against Bleasie was true and all that his followers said was true, he could not extend congratulations "upon the result of the election." Why is it that defeated candidates feel that they are compelled to do so unnecessary and really dishonest a bit of courtesy as this? One of our grievances against Judge Parker when he was the Democratic candidate for President in 1904, is that he telegraphed his congratulations to Mr. Roosevelt, a wholly unnecessary "act of politeness," as we suppose it would be called. Proper enough, possibly, for the prize ring, but altogether out of place, it seems to us, in straight politics.

BEST GOVERNOR EVER.

The night of the Primary Election in South Carolina. The News and Courier of Charleston asked Mr. Bleasie, the successful candidate for Governor, if he had anything to say about the result of the election, and his answer was:

"I have nothing to say, except 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.' I thank my friends and I thank God for this victory. I expect to make South Carolina the best Governor she has ever had for all her people."

If he will only do that all the people of the State, those who voted against him as well as those who voted for him, will be able to join him in the singing of the Long Metre Dextrology.

We do not like the speech Mr. Bleasie reported to have made to a "hilarious crowd" in Columbia the night of the election. The language employed by him was rather stronger than the circumstances appeared to warrant, and his advice to the people who had been served with a crowd diet, while pure old English in form, was in wretchedly bad taste. All that Mr. Bleasie has to do, however, to make a name for himself that will go sounding down the files of time, is to "make South Carolina the best Governor she has ever had for all her people." We do not think this speech can be taken literally, because we do not believe Mr. Bleasie is big enough for the job, but there is great virtue, at least, in having a high aim, and we trust that occasionally Mr. Bleasie will make a bull's-eye.

THE GOVERNOR KENT INCIDENT.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I have been a subscriber to your paper for about twenty-five years, and feel an interest in its welfare. I have seen that I did not like the expression in your editorial of yesterday—hell bent—in speaking of the Democratic victory in Maine. You surely do not mean that a Democratic victory means going that way. To say the least, I think some other expression would have sounded better.

H. O. KERNS.
 Sutherland, Va., September 14.

We thank Mr. Kerns for calling our attention to the exceeding wickedness of the phrase to which he objects, and rightly objects. It is true that nearly all the other papers in the country from Maine to Mexico have used the same language, and that we placed the phrase in quotation marks, showing that it was not original, and that we could not think at the time of any expression that would carry precisely the shade of meaning we wished to convey; but we "must say," with our correspondent, that we "did not like the expression." In private conversation we rarely are moved to language of that kind, and have always been taught to escape if possible from conditions tending in that general direction. The full quotation would have been something like this:

"Maine went hell bent for Governor Kent. Tippecanoe and Tyler, too."

It started away back yonder in the exciting campaign of 1840, long before our correspondent was born, and thirty years before he began to read The Times-Dispatch; "a political campaign which," we are told, "for popular enthusiasm and widespread activity has probably never been equaled in American politics." Throughout the country meetings, processions and a great variety of demonstrations were held, and the general public took an energetic share in the contest. New campaign methods were introduced, and the log cabin and hard cider became especial emblems of the party of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too."

That was the year in which Maine broke loose from her moorings and when the objectionable, not to say, sulphurous, collocation of words was invented, possibly by some over-enthusiastic respectable in the frenzy of his delirium; so that it has become a sort of idiomatic phrase to express generally the thoroughness with which a political triumph has been scored. Despite its apparent roughness it must not be regarded nowadays as anything more than a figure of speech, so to say, and although we shall not use it again, except under extreme excitement, it can be used in the Ninth District after Slemp is put to sleep by Henry Stuart in the month of November. It belongs to the class of phrases such as "hell broke loose in Georgia," all very vulgar and the use of which is to be severely avoided, but all very often affected by those who, because of their own poverty of

thought, are unable to say what they would like to say without resorting to the sayings of great men or of great emergencies in the unfolding of our complex civilization.

Mr. Kerns is wholly right in saying "surely we do not mean that a Democratic victory means going that way," but precisely the contrary, the meaning of the Governor Kent incident being applicable to the situation, from whatever point of view it may be regarded, as it falls in naturally with the context.

ENTER ON TIME.

The Lynchburg Advance says: "A good many parents are careless about entering their children in the city schools on time. They want a little more vacation, do not think a week or so lost at the beginning of the session matters much, and offer a thousand and one excuses."

This is a common error among the parents of school children and ought to be corrected. While it is true that at the beginning of the session, preliminary arrangements take up much of the time, still the pupils ought to be in school from the first. By staying out, they are forced to make up for lost time, and that is a task that is not as easy as it sounds. It places an additional burden on the teacher who cannot make things as plain to the delayed pupil as to the pupil who has begun the course in the classroom. By staying out, the pupil loses the teaching that the teacher gives and must substitute the inferior method of studying without aid at home in the place of such teaching.

The best pupil is the one who totes the mark from the beginning of school until the end, who is not being kept out of school by parents on various excuses. Allowing a pupil to shirk duty in the formative years is a great mistake, for the loafing principle can take hold soon in life and is one of the hardest to eliminate. The best school is that which is the least lax in the matter of excuses. The future citizen must be taught at the outset the necessity of being "on the job" all of the time.

STUCK ON TOMATOES.

The Charlotte Observer is worrying itself now about the proper pronunciation of "tomatoes." It does not appear to have any clear opinion on the subject, although it holds stoutly against "termartens." It is willing to concede that either a long, as in fate, or a flat, as in a fat, would be good form; but it omits to say a word in support of the pronunciation "tomatoes," as used by the Descendants. The Century Dictionary gives the preference to the broad a, as in a fat, but it permits also the long a, as in a state. It is a remarkable thing that as soon as country towns like Charlotte begin to put on airs they try to get away from their raising. It is far more important to have tomatoes than, how to call them, and the Charlotte paper will believe us when we tell it that the only true tomatoes grown in this country are the tomatoes of grand old Virginia.

THE PROMISED LAND.

The Birmingham Age-Herald prints an interview from George P. Bondurant, a prominent lawyer of that city, who has been spending a part of the summer in his native Virginia. Mr. Bondurant said of this celestial habitation:

"I was glad to find a high degree of prosperity in Virginia. All the crops are abundant. The orchard industry in that State is thriving as never before. A man with a farm near Roanoke, Va., has been offered \$22,000 for his apple crop, grown on twenty-two acres. Think of it, \$1,000 an acre!"

"Farm lands are steadily enhancing in value. I saw lands in Virginia that could have been bought some years ago at \$1 an acre now selling for \$25 an acre."

In Alabama, do as the Alabamians do; but we wonder if this expatriate would not like to come back to the promised land with his vines (permitted under the Byrd law) and apple trees, for "this loveliest fragment of the earth" it might be truly said, "No fairer land would have done him credit, and it makes a bunch of monkeys of the majority. Why is it that Democrats never lose an opportunity to show themselves at a disadvantage, putting the case in the mildest form?"

ALWAYS IN ORDER.

The Roanoke World administers a stinging rebuke in a late issue to one of its contemporaries which has taken the position that the present discussion of the need of reform in the fee system is "premature and profitless." The World declares that this contemporary "shoots wide of the mark. Evidently it does not consider that to make the fee system an issue in the election of members of the next General Assembly, it is going to require an enormous amount of campaigning to accomplish the end, for the beneficiaries under the fee system are not going to surrender the species of legalized graft by which they profit without a desperate struggle."

As to the Evening World's position, we propose to fight it with might and main, let the occasion be timely or untimely. It is a vicious and corrupt system, leading to all sorts of abuse, and that is all the excuse we want for fighting it. These abuses exist here in Roanoke; they exist in Richmond, in Norfolk and in Danville, and in every county of the State. We are not trying to reform anything or anybody. It is simply a case of an open and flagrant abuse of a pernicious system, and against which we shall continually array until it is corrected."

The World is right. It is not a bit too soon to begin the battle against this iniquitous system. It will, indeed, require "an enormous amount of campaigning" to effect a change in the present condition, but so it is with every reform. It takes a long time to get it into the heads of the people that there is something which they must do away with; the necessity for reform sinks slowly into the public conscience. The only way to achieve success in a matter like this is to hammer at it and keep hammering.

Discussion of this issue is in no dea-

ger of overshadowing the elections for Congressmen and the vote upon the four proposed amendments to the Constitution. There is enough room to talk about all of these things, without running the risk of prejudicing any one of them.

Discussion of a condition that needs to be remedied is always opportune. A fight for a reform is always in order.

ROAD EXTRAVAGANCE.

A correspondent writing to the Appomattox Times-Virginian says:

"Good roads, how and when are we to have them? In the last forty-five years nearly \$140,000,000 have been spent on the roads in Buckingham. Are they any better now than then? Suppose we had borrowed that much money then, but put two rods in order, from east to west and north to south. With the levy made from time to time we could have paid the interest, created a sinking fund and had enough to keep the roads in good repair. Some one will be believing forty-five years from now and will need roads; so start the ball at once. We make many and some serious mistakes in this life. Building good roads there can be no mistake as to the country."

This is the "horse sense" view of it. When a large sum is mentioned as the amount necessary for constructing a stretch of good road in a county, there are many who cry aloud that "it is too much; it is extravagant." Many people do not take second thought and reflect upon the consideration which the man from Buckingham has stated above—the annual waste of money on bad roads. The present system is simply a case of sinking money into something that can give no permanent return.

In the long run it is the good road that is the cheapest. It stays in good condition longer; repairs on it, when necessary, last a long time; it is an investment that pays.

The London Chronicle brings Lynchburg into the limelight, saying:

"Australia has its chance in naming its new capital between the beautiful and the ugly word. America has wasted its chances, and a correspondent has sent a small selection of the awful words. Who would like to live at 'Diemal Swamp,' or 'Hopkinsville,' Lynchburg, or—perhaps 'Mooseie,' the most dreadful in facetious suggestion."

But the writer on the Chronicle would never have said that had he ever escaped from the fogs of London town to the wonderful ozone of the beautiful hills that have made Lynchburg famous.

THE FARMVILLE CORRESPONDENT OF THE APPOMATTOX TIMES-VIRGINIAN SAYS:

"Editor Hart, of the Herald, is very much afraid of a thunder storm, and during a recent violent one, says that but for the timely arrival of his physician with the proper remedy on hand he would have suffered a fearful collapse. I am not certain as to the component parts of the mixture, but believe I can guess with some degree of accuracy."

Does the writer mean to insinuate that, in the case of Brother Hart, thunder always necessitates "white lightning" as they call it in North Carolina?

A correspondent of the Appomattox Times-Virginian says:

"I have heard none of our voters discuss the amendments which are to be voted on at the coming election, and cannot speak for them. I doubt if our voters are ready to increase the length of the legislative term. If our legislators didn't waste the first thirty days in hand-shaking and croaking they would be ready to take any legislation could be accomplished within the sixty days prescribed by the Constitution."

Exactly so.

It appears that Grisco is, after all, not such a chump of a politician as his opponents have been claiming. The Tribune having picked up sufficient courage to say that "his leadership stands confirmed." But if the Tribune were running for office, wouldn't it rather trust to Tim and Barnes and the rest of the gang for its election than to Grisco?

Elihu Root probably drafted the report of the majority of the committee in the Ballinger case, at any rate it would have done him credit, and it makes a bunch of monkeys of the majority. Why is it that Democrats never lose an opportunity to show themselves at a disadvantage, putting the case in the mildest form?

For several night the lynx-eyed guardians of the public peace have been nosing about the Chesterfield in Franklin Street looking for the speeders and the smellers of the automobile brigade. That is the place to catch them at some of their worst tricks, and it is hoped that they will all be caught.

That upright Judge of the Police Court, the Hon. Crutchfield, does not think that the offending automobilists should be fined as much as ten bucks for not keeping their lights burning as made and provided for in the City Ordinance; but, as we understand, it is the proper business of the Judge to follow the law, not to make it. Otherwise, he would be a member of the Council and not on the Bench.

The Young Egypt party has caught its breath and in its meeting at Geneva has been expressing its opinion rather freely about the Colonel and his speeches at Khartoum and in London as to its administration of its own affairs. Two of the choicest epithets applied to the Colonel at the meeting of the committee on Wednesday were "vulgar blusterer" and "self-advertiser." All the world will find him out after awhile.

"The Cost of the Finished Product" was the subject of the leading article in the Charleston News and Courier the day after the last primary election; but it did not have especial reference to the election of Mr. Bleasie. The cost of that finished product can be figured out in something like three years.

Not unless we were very hungry and the dinner was very good.

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

Expenditures in Brunswick County.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—I notice among the recent expenditures of Brunswick county the following:

To the treasurer, \$17.76, "being amount allowed for making a list of voters who have paid their taxes for 1907-8-9."

Also to the clerk, \$113.76, "being amount allowed for making a list of voters and thirty-six copies of said list, as directed by the board of supervisors, and for printing and binding of said list, and for the cost of the law directed. It simply shows how public funds are squandered." According to the law, the clerk is to be paid \$10.00.

Cochran, Va., August 25.

Woman's Personal Property Rights.

1. Has a husband a right to take the personal property of a woman's farm that was bought with the money made on the farm, and move it away to do actual work on the farm?

2. If the husband is a tenant, and her property assessed in her own name, but he objected, and said there was no use for her to do this.

3. Is it his business to know whose money he is using? These articles the farm is worked with, and he knows there is dissatisfaction on her part?

1. No.
 2. No.
 3. The assessor cannot return property for taxation in the name of any but the legal owner.

Subcontractor's Lien.

Please answer in your Query Column the following question: A contractor built a house for a certain amount, to be paid when the house was completed and received; but B received his pay from A and failed to pay the contractor, who then whom he purchased material for the house. Can the parties from whom the material was purchased by B hold the building on a lien for the money he owes the contractor?

A READER.

A cannot be held in this case, if he paid B without notice from the subcontractor not to do so.

"Caracasone."

Kindly print in your Query Column, or wherever suitable, the poem called "Caracasone," or "I Never Have been to Caracasone," and oblige.

A SUBSCRIBER.

We regret that we have been unable to find this poem.

Hail and Sleet.

What is the difference between hail and sleet?

Hail is frozen rain or congealed vapor, falling in pellets or halos of varying size and shape. True hailstones appear to be formed by accre-

tion, consisting often of alternate layers of ice and snow, which are believed to be formed while the storm is in progress, and the hail is a mixture of snow or hail and rain, particularly drizzling or driving hailly frozen rain or rain that freezes on the tree or ground.

Bleasie's "Theodicy."

If "W. C. J." will send us a self-addressed post card, we can send him the address of a place where he may get a copy of Bleasie's "Theodicy."

Ethiopia.

What countries were included in ancient Ethiopia? What is known about the people of that country?

That country included modern Nubia, Sennar and Abyssinia, and other with as much of the country west of the Nile as was inhabited. Very little is known concerning the people of ancient Ethiopia, their customs and laws, but the inscriptions on temples and tombs in their country strongly resemble those of the Egyptians, and it is probable that the manners, customs and religion, etc., of the two nations were similar.

Judgment in Montana.

What is the limitation of a judgment in the State of Montana?

Ten years. When obtained in courts not of record, five years.

Frost Penetration.

Why is it that frost penetrates solid ground no more than it does loose, porous ground in the same locality?

Because the porous ground contains air, which the solid ground does not.

Irrigation Laws.

To whom should I apply for copies of the national irrigation laws?

The Congressman of the district in which you live.

Constitutional Questions.

1. How are justices of the United States Supreme Court appointed?
 2. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?
 3. Who is the Secretary of State?
 4. How many senators have been added to the Constitution of the United States?
 5. What two ways may a bill become a law without the President's signature?
 1. They are appointed by the President, subject to the ratification of the Senate.
 2. The chief justiceship is vacant at present.
 3. Hon. Philander C. Knox.
 4. Fifteen.
 5. First, by the action of the Congress in passing the bill over the President's veto; second, by the President keeping the bill in his possession more than ten days.

Emperor William's periodical withdrawal from his hunting lodge at Hubertusstock and Rominen, each of them situated in the depths of forests and tombs, being ultimately discovered by mere chance, living under assumed bourgeois name in a second class pension or boarding-house on the shore of one of the smaller lakes of Switzerland.

The reigning Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who for a week or ten days, even his private secretaries knowing where to lay hands on him. A terribly hard worker, his physical and mental vigor, his energy, his thoroughness and his ability to get things done, he slipped away, and by devious routes reached the little village of Pacy-sur-Eure, some thirty miles from Paris, where the sole inn of the place he gave the people to understand that he was a small shopkeeper, and that he had come to the place for the fishing. His entire days were spent fishing on the river's bank, his features being concealed by an immense bushy white beard, and he to the Gallic disciples of Isaac Walton.

Arrived in an alpaca coat and a cane, and a few days later, he and a couple of books, he idled the days away, enjoying, for the first time since taking office, a complete rest.

Meanwhile a number of questions had popped up at Paris requiring the immediate attention of the Emperor, and not only his subordinates, but also his colleagues in the Cabinet, and even the President of the republic, were called upon to attend to the machinery of the government was becoming clogged by his absence.

At the end of a week he became very seriously concerned. The matter leaked out and got into the newspapers, and ultimately the alarm bell was rung so great that the Emperor, the Surete, that is to say, of the Secret Service, which forms a part of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of the War, determined to risk the statesman's anger, and sent out some of his most trusted and able subordinates to ascertain what had become of him. One of these detectives tracked Briand to Pacy-sur-Eure, but was not allowed to pretend not to recognize his quarry. He got him into conversation, and after discussing fishing gradually led him to the subject of the day, and to the alarm felt in Paris about the disappearance of the Premier, and the fuss that was being made about it.

Briand said nothing; but on the following morning he betook himself to his neighboring town, got into a motor car, and drove to the private secretary over the long distance wire in Paris, learned of the alarm entered about his head, and, in the presence of his presence, and accordingly returned to the French capital.

Briand is only one of many significant signs of state which have been indicated in mysterious disappearances of a more or less prolonged character. Gambetta, although his structure was not so delicate, and his personality was not so much concealed, he disappeared for a week or two, and was not seen again until he was found in a remote corner of France, or else in some little German, Italian or Scandinavian town.

King Leopold used to delight in freaks of this nature, and on one occasion vanished from Brussels early in the morning of the very day he was pointed for the celebration of the anniversary of his birth, without the least regard for any of his official receptions at court, to which all the dignitaries of the realm, as well as the foreign envoys, had been invited, for the military reviews and popular festivities arranged in honor of the event. Five days later there was a cabinet crisis, followed by the resignation of the administration in Parliament. The King's presence became imperative, in order to admit of the defeated ministers sending in their resignation, and for the purpose of selecting their successors. It was in vain that Leopold was sought all over Europe. He could not be found; and finally two weeks later, just at the moment when people had become convinced that he had been either murdered or was being held for ransom by bandits in Sicily or in Morocco, a country which he was very fond of visiting, he was discovered by chance in one of the most out of the way corners of Switzerland, remote from any railroad or from any of the beaten tracks of tourists, engaged in making a leisurely walking and driving tour, in fact, but from a party of his friends, struck his fancy. He was very put out and annoyed when

compelled to interrupt his holiday, and to return to Brussels.

King Louis III of Bavaria had likewise a trick of disappearing without giving notice to his subordinates, and completely lost to the members of the royal family, and to his ministers, for three months, being ultimately discovered by mere chance, living under an assumed bourgeois name in a second class pension or boarding-house on the shore of one of the smaller lakes of Switzerland.

The reigning Grand Duke of Oldenburg,